

May 16th, 2018

Dear Prospective AP Lit Students:

As part of the AP Literature and Composition class, KUSD has been committed to the summer reading program. One intention of this program is to give students a bit of a taste of the type of reading to be expected in an AP Literature course. Another intention is to prepare students during the summer, so we can begin the fall semester immediately with the business of reading, thinking, interpreting, and writing about literature with the rigor expected from a college level course. With this in mind, students will be required to procure their own copy of the text listed below.

Frankenstein – Mary Shelly: At once a Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, *Frankenstein* tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein. Obsessed with discovering "the cause of generation and life" and "bestowing animation upon lifeless matter," Frankenstein assembles a human being from stolen body parts but; upon bringing it to life, he recoils in horror at the creature's hideousness. Tormented by isolation and loneliness, the once-innocent creature turns to evil and unleashes a campaign of murderous revenge against his creator, Frankenstein.

Frankenstein, an instant bestseller and an important ancestor of both the horror and science fiction genres, not only tells a terrifying story, but also raises profound, disturbing questions about the very nature of life and the place of humankind within the cosmos: What does it mean to be human? What responsibilities do we have to each other? How far can we go in tampering with Nature? In our age, filled with news of organ donation, genetic engineering, and bio-terrorism, these questions are more relevant than ever (amazon.com). We will talk about these ideas upon your return in the fall.

I will be speaking with the good people at Barnes and Noble to make sure there are copies of the Barnes and Noble publication of this novel in stock as this version is offered for a low price, \$4.00 (ISBN 9781593080051) I am by no means discouraging you from checking out Amazon.com, though, or RK News here in town. You do not need this exact publication, but it is the version I will be referring to in class. A full length pdf of the novel is also available online at:
<http://www.planetebook.com/ebooks/Frankenstein.pdf>

Assignment: Dialectical Journal

You will need to purchase a journal or notebook to complete this assignment.

For each chapter you are to do the following: On the top line of your notebook paper, center the chapter number and page numbers. Underneath, on the first line of the paper, write a one-sentence summary of the chapter. Then divide your paper into two halves, lengthwise. Label the left hand column CONTENT. Label the right hand column PERSONAL RESPONSE. Write the page number down, in parenthesis, after each quote or passage. For each chapter, find significant quotes or passages that exemplify major events in the text or are an example of a literary device. Consider plot development, setting, shifts in tone or point of view, character development, protagonists, antagonists, motifs (see note below the example), theme, sentence structure, diction, imagery, figurative language, etc. You should record and analyze 2-3 quotes per chapter. The example below is taken from *The Things They Carried*.

The Things They Carried : Chapter One p.1-26

In chapter one, O'Brien describes the various physical and psychological burdens that soldiers carry.

Content	Personal Response
<p>“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”(2).</p>	<p>O'brien chooses to end the first section of chapter 1 with this sentence. He provides detailed imagery of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. Through the simile “they carried like freight trains;” he makes the reader feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. By combining the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men the soldiers fight with, with this physical weight, O'Brien helps readers start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</p>

Note: The following are motifs (repeating ideas in the novel) that you should be on the lookout for in *Frankenstein*: Birth and Creation, Rebellion and Moral Isolation, Romanticism, Overreaching, Doubles, Technology, Victim and Victimizer, Unjust Society

This assignment should be completed upon your return in the fall.

I look forward to working with you next fall. Aside from all the academic posturing, above all, be sure to enjoy your summer. I hope you find the reading enlightening and entertaining. If questions arise over the course of the summer, please e-mail me. I will not be available all summer, but I will check my e-mail as often as possible to answer questions. Information on the summer reading and updates can also be viewed by joining my AP Google classroom using the following code: ytls0w. Additional help will also be offered via voluntary sessions that will be held here at Bradford on July 18th, August 1st, and August 15th.

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*I recommend that you highlight quotes as you read and label the literary devices. You will not need to use all the quotes you highlight in the novel in your journal, however, highlighting these quotes/labeling as you read may help you to better decide what to put in your literary journal, as well as help you tune up your annotation skills.

*I also *highly* recommend that you pick up a copy of a book called **How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster**. You are *not* required to have this book, but it will be extremely helpful to you in this course as it explains the type of literary analysis you will be required to do, and it explains it in a very approachable way. I personally will be referencing this book throughout the year as it has quite a bit of helpful information.